



CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District
of Clare, in the County of West Suffolk, for the
year ended 31st December, 1968

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

July, 1969.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1968.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population increase, 210, was lower than the 1967 increase. The birth rate at 16.2 is lower than last year, and lower than the average for England and Wales. The death rate at 9.9 is again lower than that for 1967. Over 45% of deaths in males, and 62% of deaths in females, were 75 years of age or over. The number of deaths from all forms of cancer was 19, two more than in 1967. Coronary disease was the cause of death in 22 instances; fewer than last year, but again with a male preponderance.

The infant mortality rate at 11.7 is higher than last year, but below the national average. Congenital anomaly accounted for 1 death under 4 weeks of age.

Infectious Diseases

The number of notifications of measles was high, despite the introduction and use of measles vaccine.

One case of salmonella food poisoning was notified.

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified.

Environmental Conditions

Progress continues to be made towards main sewerage for a majority of the parishes in the district. The problems of septic tank effluent are a continuing menace which can only be relieved by proper sewerage and sewage disposal. The high cost per dwelling in rural areas is a factor worthy of consideration.

Negotiations for refuse pulverisation with a neighbouring authority have begun. This should alleviate many of the problems associated with crude refuse disposal. It is hoped that the new system will come into operation early in 1970.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help afforded me in compiling the Report by the Clerk of the Council and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

My thanks are also offered to the Chairman and all members of the

Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement throughout the year.

As Dr. Morgan resigned during the year I have prepared this Report on his behalf.

J. R. M. Murdoch

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. Farnill Morgan, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P.,
L.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental
Deficiency and Allied Subjects (London)

Resigned September 1968

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR and SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H. A. Smith, A.M.I.P.H.E., F.A.I.S., M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and BUILDING INSPECTOR

W. J. Black, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTORS

Senior Meat Inspector and six Authorised
Officers are appointed to carry out meat inspection
duties at the Little Wrattling Abattoir of
Messrs. J. Sainsbury Ltd.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year)

Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£238,968)	£250,716
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£ (930)	£1014
Number of inhabited houses	(3,261)	3307
Number of empty houses	(229)	274
Population Census 1961	8,815	-
Population Registrar's Estimate	(June 1967-) 10,360	June 1968 10,570

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	72	168	(177)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3	3	(10)
Total								96	75	171	(187)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.2	(18.1)
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor 1.12)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.1	(20.4)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.9	(17.2)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.7	(5.3)

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1	(3)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	(-)
Total								-	1	1	(3)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.8	(15.8)
" " " " " " " "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(Eng. & Wales)	..	14.0	(14.8)

<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	73	169	(180)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3	3	(10)
Total								96	76	172	(190)

<u>DEATHS</u>								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
								55	50	105	(114)
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.9	(11.0)
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 0.87)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.6	(9.6)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9	(11.2)

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age.

								<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2	(1)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	(-)
Total								2	-	2	(1)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7	(10.7)
" " " " " " " "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(England & Wales)	..	18.0	(18.3)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legit. live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9	(11.3)
Illegitimate " " " " illegit. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	(-)

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	5.8	(10.7)
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EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	5.8	(5.3)
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PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	11.6	(21.0)
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MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths (including abortion)	-	(-)
Death rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	(-)

<u>RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Adjusted birth rates	16.1	16.0	16.4	16.5	20.4	20.2	20.4	18.1
Adjusted death rates	10.4	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2	8.2	9.6	8.6

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>									<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	..								2	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..							-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	..	..	..	..					-	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..						4	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	..	..	..	..					-	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	..	..	..	..	..				-	3
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	..	..	..	..	..				4	2
Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Anaemias	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Hypertensive disease	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..			15	7
Other forms of heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..			2	3
Cerebrovascular disease	..	..	..	..	..	..			4	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..						2	-
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8
Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..	..	..			6	1
Asthma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..						2	2
Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	..	..	..						1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	..	..	..						-	1
Congenital anomalies	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..			-	1
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	1
									<u>55</u>	<u>50</u>
									76	38

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

									<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	1	2 (21)
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		30	32	62 (85)
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..			-	-	- (10)
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	1	2 (1)
Paratyphoid	..	..	..	..	..	..			1	-	1 (-)
									<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>67 (117)</u>

6. TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Cases at commencement 1968	20	5	1	3	29
2. First notified during 1968	1	-	-	-	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
* 5. Cases removed from Register	20	4	1	2	27
6. Remaining at 31.12.68	1	1	-	1	3

* During the year the Tuberculosis Register was brought up to date.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board.

Water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The number of standpipe supplies are being reduced and the percentage of such is relatively small.

Some individual houses have their own private well or borehole supplies, and at Stoke-by-Clare a number of properties and The College are supplied from a privately owned borehole, water from which during the year was wholesome and fit for drinking purposes. A slight cause of contamination in a roof storage tank at The College was discovered and promptly rectified.

It is estimated that 95 per cent of dwellings in the area have mains water supply.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal schemes are in operation for the following Villages :-

Clare and Cavendish	-	(with one disposal works near Clare)
Kedington and Great Whratting	-	{ " " " " " Kedington)
Lidgate and Ousden	-	{ " " " " " Lidgate)
Gt. and Lt. Bradley and		
Gt. and Lt. Thurlow	-	{ " " " " " Lt. Thurlow)
Hundon, Stoke-by-Clare,		
Wixoe, Wickhambrook and		
Withersfield.	-	(all with individual disposal works)

Barnadiston - Plans are being prepared for laying sewers to serve 28 existing houses in the Village. House septic tanks discharge into ditches and are a constant source of foul odours and ditch pollution. It is hoped that appropriate approvals will be given next year to permit this scheme to commence pumping sewage for treatment at the Kedington disposal works.

Wickham Street and Clopton - This scheme, requested by The Council, includes for accepting sewage from 65 houses and pumping this to the existing disposal works near to The Duddery, Wickhambrook. Increasing disposal problems are arising from tank effluent in this area, garden land is becoming waterlogged, land irrigation is retarded by a clay subsoil, ditches are fouled and property improvements are also demanding main drainage.

Stansfield - The Council decided during the year to proceed with main drainage for this village in view of persistent complaints of nuisance from overflowing septic tanks. Sewage from about 69 houses would be pumped to the proposed pumping station at Wickham Street.

Cowlinge and Attleton Green - This is a main drainage scheme agreed to during the year and considered urgent in view of badly polluted roadside ditches. The Council deemed it necessary to remove sewage sludge and liquid filth from one of these ditches adjoining houses, the School and highway. The scheme will serve 82 existing houses.

Poslingford - A proposal to drain sewage from houses in this Village into a pumping station at Snow Hill, Clare, was given Ministerial consent following its deferment for the past few years. Work is scheduled to commence early 1969.

Clare - A scheme for enlarging the existing sewage disposal works, building a pumping station at Snow Hill and providing main drainage for that area of Clare is to begin early next year. The works when completed will accommodate sewage from a population of 4,500

Other Villages - In June the Council discussed possible village sewerage schemes for Hawkedon, Denston, Stradishall, and the hamlet of Chilton near to Clare, and decided that on public health grounds and having regard to the financial stringency imposed by the Government that main drainage was not so exceptionally urgent in these parishes at the present time.

There are no main drainage proposals for the Village of Depden where no compact village centre exists. The open nature of development of houses around a large 'green' would make a sewerage scheme rather high in terms of cost per house, but further building and property improvement may reveal the need to look more closely into a possible sewerage scheme for this area and that of Ashfield Green in the adjoining parish of Wickhambrook.

Withersfield - Within this parish and adjoining its boundary with Haverhill U.D.C. are 14 houses at Meldham Bridge. The Council have agreed to a financial arrangement with the U.D.C. to permit a foul water sewer to be laid for these houses, and to discharge into a sewer being laid by the U.D.C. next year.

At present a series of septic tanks in gardens with land drains discharging to the adjoining stream and on to footpaths is giving some concern.

Little Wrattling - The possibility of providing main drainage for some houses in this parish is being investigated, although the prospect of sewers being laid at a reasonable cost per house appears a little remote at present.

C. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

A weekly kerbside collection of dustbins is in operation. Waste paper is collected, bagged and sold, and a collection of trade refuse continues weekly in Clare. The work is done by four driver/collectors with one man in assistance on two days per week. The two or three collection vehicles used, travel about 560 miles each week collecting between 38 and 50 tons of rubbish from 3,800 bins.

Refuse is tipped into three old quarries at Kedington, Denston and Edgate, and during the year the Council accepted a suggested alternative to this form of disposal, by negotiating with the neighbouring authority Haverhill U.D.C. for use of a pulverising plant to be installed there next year. It is anticipated that about half the amount of refuse from your area will be pulverised by mid-1970 and two of the present quarries will be filled and returned to agriculture.

Septic tanks on Council house estates are cleared by Contract during the year 267 tanks of private dwellings were cleared at a reduced rate to the householder of 10/- per load of 750 gallons of sewage.

Tank Cleansing Contractors found it extremely difficult during the year to obtain suitable tank content disposal areas, with a result that delays in cleansing caused much concern, and too many complaints of nuisance both from overflowing tanks and from tipped sewage effluent were received.

A contract was let during the year for enlarging the Clare Sewage Disposal works which are designed also to treat septic sewage from cesspools and tanks, and until work is completed, three large land lagoons have been formed at the disposal works site to receive septic tank effluent. There should be no further delay in tank cleaning or nuisance from indiscriminate effluent dumping by Contractors.

A joint scheme is in operation with the County Council whereby refuse is regularly collected from main road lay-by litter baskets.

Main road public conveniences do not appear to be necessary for your area at the present time.

D. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made by the Department during the year under various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Improvement Grants	557
Housing Defects and Nuisances	31
Housing Acts	56
Drainage Alterations and Building Regs.	355
Housing Maintenance	124
Sewage Disposal	223
Factory Acts	31
Factory Outworkers	9
Infectious Diseases	3
Verminous Premises and Insect Infestations	40
Refuse Collection and Disposal	141
Caravans	18
Town & Country Planning	212
Rodent Control	191
Petroleum Act	22
Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard	15
Food and Meat Inspection	62
Water Supply	31
Public Health Nuisances	130
Food Premises	113
Offices, Shops	141
Mobile Shops	20
Other matters	124

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E. HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to privately owned dwelling houses have continued at a reasonable rate both with and without grant aid.

50 dwellings were improved with grant aid during the year. Since commencement of the assisted scheme 200 dwellings have been modernised by way of Standard Grants and 459 by Discretionary Grant.

PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Housing complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	39
Informal notices sent to Owners	..	..	..	..	17
Complaints abated	..	..	..	..	16
Houses rendered fit after informal action	..	..			14
Statutory notices served	..	..	..	..	NIL
Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	NIL

PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1957

Houses on which demolition orders were made	..	NIL
Houses on which Closing Orders were made	..	NIL
Houses demolished by Owners	..	NIL
Undertakings to make fit accepted	..	NIL
Houses made fit	..	2

NEW DWELLINGS PROVIDED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

In the parish of	-	Barnadiston	2
		Cavendish	8
		Clare	8
		Hundon	20
		Kedington	14
		Ousden	2
		Stansfield	2
		Stoke-by-Clare	2
		Stradishall	1
		Wickhambrook	5
		Withersfield	2
		Great Wratting	1
		Great Bradley	11

A total of 78

At Wickhambrook the Council built 12 two-bedroomed bungalows for aged people.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

CARAVANS

There are a number of individual caravans in the area controlled by an annual consent under the Town and Country Planning Act and every effort is made to see that essential services are available to safe-guard the health of the occupants.

No licences are in being under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

F. PET SHOPS

There are none in the area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No formal action was needed under the Clean Air Act 1956. The emission of a dense black smoke from the boilers of The Risbridge Home at Kedington was rectified by a change from solid fuel to oil burning boiler units.

NOISE ABATEMENT

There was no call for any action under The Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of premises registered at the end of the year and which received a general inspection was :-

Offices	(8)	9
Retail Shops	(15)	20
Fuel Storage Depots	(1)	1
Catering establishments	(1)	3
Wholesale shops	(1)	1
	<hr/> (26) <hr/>	<hr/> 34 <hr/>

Contraventions noted related chiefly to temperature and first aid equipment.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

The first establishment at Great Bradley was licensed during the year.

PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

There are 75 licensed petrol storage installations in the area.

G. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

There are 86 food premises offering in general a reasonable standard of hygiene. They are :-

Licensed Hotels, Inn and Clubs	..	40
Restaurants	.. .. .	4
Bakery	.. .. .	1
Butchers	.. .. .	5
Greengrocers	.. .. .	2
Chemists	.. .. .	1
Wholesale Depots	.. .. .	2
General Stores	.. .. .	31

The number of mobile vehicles from which food is sold in your area has increased. Inspections of 15 vans and mobile shops revealed that 10 were deficient in standards largely due to the absence of washing facilities and identification.

No ice cream is manufactured in your area but the following premises are registered under The Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream :-

General Stores and Shops	..	..	..	24
Public Houses	..	..	..	5

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one licensed establishment at The Little Wrattling Abattoir for the trades of Blood Drying, Fat melting and Rendering, also Gut Scraping.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS

The one licensed slaughterhouse in the area is that of Messrs. J. Sainsbury Ltd., in the Parish of Little Wrattling.

A knackers yard is licensed at Chilton Street, near Clare, where during the year considerable improvements to the slaughterhall area were carried out to facilitate more hygienic and cleansing operations, although no animals were killed on the premises during the year.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERMEN

There are 47 licensed slaughtermen. 1 new licence being granted during the year. The majority of slaughtermen are employed at The Little Wrattling Abattoir.

MEAT INSPECTION

There were no cattle or sheep killed in the licensed slaughterhouse during the year.

Pigs killed and inspected numbered 381,476 of which 3 whole carcasses were condemned for Tuberculosis only.

1031 whole carcasses were condemned for disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerci and included in a total of 243 tons of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Rejected meat is removed from the slaughterhouse by a Contractor for processing into animal food, glues, fertilizers, etc.

There are no poultry processing premises in your area.

H. FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Inspections

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	24	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	3	3	-	-
Total	32	29	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - 3

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

No. of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel - 10

Firework base assembly - 14

